

Alliance

AN ETHNIC NEWSPAPER AT KSU

NOVEMBER 1987

New Professor On Campus

by Barbara Baker

K-State gets a new instructor and women get a role model. This semester LaBarbara Wigfall is teaching studio and drawing classes to undergraduate students in the College of Architecture and Design at KSU.

Wigfall becomes the third Black member of the teaching faculty at K-State this semester. Currently, she is the only Black female teaching at K-State.

Before coming to K-State, Wigfall taught Architectural Design at the University of Texas in San Antonio and Environmental Design at the University of California at Berkley. In conjunction with her academic appointments she has presented a series of lectures at a number of prestigious universities, including K-State.

Wigfall said the opportunity to lecture at KSU -- as well as a past work association with the Kansas State Historical Society -- helped her get a better insight into KSU and motivated her to choose this university as a place to teach.

"I was impressed with the competence of the students," she said, "both their ability to perform in class and their ability to perform professionally after graduation."

The dean of the College of Architecture and Design also influenced her decision to come to KSU.

"He (Dean Mark Lapping) was very aggressive in how he felt. I could contribute to the university and he appreciated the comprehensiveness of my past research study," she said.

"There are three things a black instructor looks at when considering different colleges around the country," Wigfall said. "They are money, location, and the opportunity to accomplish goals."

Wigfall believes the lack of black instructors at K-State is due in part to an image of Kansas not having any black people. Wigfall says many people don't even have a perception of where Manhattan, Kansas is.

"The first question they will ask is how far is it from Kansas City." But Wigfall says K-State does have the reputation of being an excellent academic institution.

A woman in a male-oriented career, Wigfall says her mother was her strongest role model. "Her encouragement influenced my desire to be a role model for all women."

"I grew up in a strong three-unit family where my father pushed my mother's image of being smart and independent."

Wigfall advises women who want to achieve in a career to have determination and a strong and secure self.

"Because you're an independent woman," she said.
See WIGFALL page 4

From The Desk Of Veryl

by Skip Grizzell

Upon enrollment and registration, most students probably received a map of the KSU campus, among numerous other handouts. According to the 8-1/2 by 11-inch guide, Holton Hall is situated in the center of campus. Holton Hall houses the Office of Minority Affairs and Special Programs. Many may not know what goes on in Room 201, but when I arrived at K-State it was my first stop.

At the Office of Minority Affairs and Special Programs I met Mr. Veryl Switzer, Assistant Vice President for Special Services, whom I had spoken with numerous times by long distance telephone prior to my arrival regarding admission and the seemingly never-ending enrollment, housing, and registration procedures. Consequently, I began to see the importance of this establishment on our campus.

According to Switzer, the purpose of the Special Services office is multi-functional. The provisions of a visible support system for ethnic minorities at Kansas State, a predominately white institution, is its primary purpose. It cannot be denied that during undergraduate college years such a system is vital to the success of every student. To assure this, the Office of Minority Affairs and Special Programs makes itself available.

Included in the ideal of this positive support system is the assistance of ethnic minorities in their matriculation on campus. Through exposure to different people, different cultures, etc., the total college experience is heightened, brought to higher levels of knowledge - balancing what is learned in the classroom.

As a support system, the Special Services office monitors student progress, helps to facilitate student success on campus in various activities, encouraging persistence. Through the office a "critical mass," an identity base, is provided for minority students who would otherwise be left to fend for themselves. Complementing these services activities such as counseling services, individual tutorial assistance, career information regarding job opportunities, and referral services to academic departments are provided on a continual basis.

As Assistant Vice President for Special Services, Veryl Switzer supervises seven program units with the Office of Special Services: the Upward Bound Pro-



Veryl Switzer

gram (pre-college age), the Fenix Program (students 25 yrs. and up), Educational Supportive Services, Minority and Cultural Affairs, Religious Services, Services for Students with Physical Limitations, and the International Student Center. Through these special services many KSU students can get assistance in any of their needed areas.

BSU Answers Conference Call

KSU's Black Student Union will be hosting the 11th Annual Big 8 Conference on Black Student Government in Manhattan, Kansas, February 18-21, 1988.

The Big 8 Conference serves as a forum to discuss problems on campus, ensuring the future success of Black collegians. This year's theme is "Remembering Our Roots, Cultivating Our Growth, Harvesting Our Goals." We will strive to make this a motivational experience, and provide an opportunity to rejuvenate our dream while working together. These objectives include promoting and supporting Black student organizations within the Big 8 region; developing ethnic departments and integrating information into existing university curricula; promoting the hiring of Black faculty, staff; networking with Big 8 member universities.

We are excited about the reunion of Black students across the country once again, and the motivational speakers we attract. Please mark your calendars for committee meetings and participate in the preparation of our conference.

We look forward to your participation.



LaBarbara Wigfall

BSU "Back To School" PICNIC '87



Volleyball anyone? Picnickers indulge in a friendly game.



Some of the Black faculty and staff "chew the fat" together at picnic.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

by Skip Grizzell

Kansas State attracts students from around the globe as well as the state of Kansas, over 80 countries are represented this year. Transfer students are also common on our campus. This month, Alliance spoke with Nechelle Welch and Kimberly Lemons, both are incoming students with two distinctly different backgrounds. Nechelle is coming to K-State from Wichita, Kansas while Kim is a transfer student from Spelman College, a traditionally black, all women's college in Atlanta, Georgia, the heart of the South.

Nechelle Welch, eldest of two children is a resident of Ford Hall and enjoys dorm life. While in high school, Nechelle was a member of the cheerleading squad and engaged in other extra-curricular activities, but regrets holding back and not expressing herself fully in high school. "I'm going into this school year with no restraints," Nechelle says.

"I love dorm life. Just knowing that I'm surviving is having fun for me. Knowing that my goals are being reached is having a good time," was Nechelle's reply when asked about campus life. Her expectations of college life are being fulfilled though Welch expressed that it's been a little slow finding inroads to further her involvement here on campus.

As far as perspective goes, Nechelle communicates ideas of "getting your own," not riding on

the coattails of past success, parents, or scholarships. Welch says, "I don't want someone else to purchase my success. I want to earn mine." Past achievements, family traditions and financial scholarships are all well and good in their place but personal strivings and an inner desire to succeed are what count.

Kim, on the other hand, is a freshman transfer from Atlanta's Spelman College. When asked why she transferred, Lemons' response was to raise her GPA. But her ultimate goal is to graduate from a Black university with aspirations to do graduate work at Northwestern University in Chicago, pursuing a career in business administration.

"Spelman was a shock!" Kim reported, having completed her secondary education at predominately white institutions. Competition in virtually every area of academia and campus society exists at Spelman. Thus, Kim found it important to be in control. Being a Black institution, a strong sense of sisterhood prevailed though competition was stiff. A sense of community and personal achievement along with a proud collective identity, is prevalent there.

Lemons, too, finds it imperative to have a strong sense of purpose. "I always make sure that I'm three steps ahead," Kim said, in reference to her studies at K-State. "I want to work extra hard."

In order to acquire and maintain similar ideas, Black students must take initiatives in every aspect of college - class

REBIRTH

Ebony Theatre Returns To KSU

by Barbara Baker

It has been two years since Ebony Theatre performed. Ebony's last production ended in 1985 with the play Moonchildren.

Ebony Theatre was started in 1977. It was formed by Joyce Smith who was also advisor for the theatre group. The purpose of Ebony Theatre was to provide exposure in Black theatre at K-State and throughout Kansas.

Ebony's works were written by Black playwrights who spoke of universal themes. They were the first non-professional group permitted to do a Broadway production of For Colored Girls which received outstanding reviews within the Manhattan, Kansas community. Some of Ebony's other productions included: Don't Bother Me, I Can't Cope; Selma; Black Love Song II; and Methuselah. Three of Ebony's most prominent members were Vicki Felder, Velina Houston, and Vincent Bly. But now in 1987, "the spirit, the struggle and the dream of a people" returns with the rebirth of Ebony Theatre. Ebony's rebirth production will be Douglas Ward Turner's Happy Ending. I am very excited about being a part of Ebony's Theatre's rebirth. I wanted to see Ebony

Theatre return to K-State because I feel every person should be exposed to different cultures and theatre is one of the best ways to learn about ethnic groups and cultures.

I also know there are lots of playwrights of Black and other ethnic backgrounds whose plays have never been read by some people and have never been seen on stage. I hope Ebony can be a showcase for these playwrights so that everyone can share the beauty and uniquenesses of different cultures.

Ebony Theatre has a strong past history and I know that it can have a strong future. That strong future has begun with Happy Ending.

Happy Ending is a black satire based on two women who are domestic workers and the "unknown" entrepreneurs within a white household.

I'm very happy that the two major characters in Happy Ending are women. Ellie and Vi are strong; they're intelligent and they survive. They make a bad situation work for them. I think Ellie and Vi are a tribute to all black women whose strength and determination have been underestimated and overlooked.

Shirl Henry, speech and theatre major, was also instrumental in the plans for Ebony's rebirth.

"Ebony has always been a part of K-State and even though they've had a slack period, they belong here, especially for minority students," Henry said. Henry also wants Ebony to provide a learning experience about difference cultures.

"Theatre encompasses all races and Ebony is the chance for everyone to see that. Ebony is here to share culture," Henry said.

Henry will also be playing the part of Ellie in Happy Ending. Henry said she is very excited to be playing Ellie and sharing the part with the community.

"Ellie is a strong person and she's smart. She may be a domestic worker but she's smart and she's lively and funny. She took a bad situation and made it good," Henry said.

Happy Ending was performed October 16, 17, 1987 at the Purple Masque Theatre.

Other cast members include Marlene Reed, Skip Grizzell, and Terry Jones.

HELP!

EBONY THEATRE NEEDS YOUR HELP

Ebony Theatre needs people to help make its rebirth a success. People are needed to work backstage, to help with ticket promotions, and to work on advertising promotions. Practice and performance times will be posted around campus. No previous experience with the theatre is required. For more information, call Barbara Baker at 537-8250. Come and join our Ebony Ensemble.

I want to
earn my
success!

UNIQUELY GREEK

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., a public service sorority, was conceptualized and turned into reality by 22 women with their minds set on community service and a true sisterhood as a foundation.

The Eta Gamma chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was established on the campus of Kansas State University in 1970 and currently has seven active

undergraduate members. Their activities include performing community services in the Manhattan area such as food drives, Manhattan Emergency Shelter donations, and frequent elderly home visits.

Eta Gamma chapter is involved extensively with campus activities such as the Black Student Union, and United Black Voices, which was initiated by the chapter in 1972.



Members of Delta Sigma Theta

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity

In 1917, it was probably not imagined by a young Kansan that the seed he would plant at Kansas State Agriculture College would flourish into a fruitful tree of black culture and knowledge. Along with high ideas, the will to succeed and a burning love for the fraternity he helped found, Charles Ignatious Brown brought with him the first black greek letter organization to our campus, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

The Delta chapter, the fourth chapter founded in the fraternity, would go on to struggle through two World Wars, the Depression, the Vietnam War and a long battle with racial injustice only to be revitalized again in 1982.

Phi Beta Sigma was built on the three principles of brotherhood, scholarship, and service. Brotherhood, the loving bond of unity and strength within the organization, is a perpetuating factor. This bond not only exists between local chapters, but also extends itself nationally and internationally. Phi Beta Sigma has chapters in Africa, Germany and many other countries around the world, including the United States.

"Education, a Commitment to Progress" - that was the theme of our Second Annual Scholarship Ball held in April of this year. With scholarship being another important tool in the success of not only our fraternity, but in the black community as a whole, the purpose of this ball is to assist incoming students in their pursuit of academic excellence. April's ball will financially assist two K-State minority students this year.

Our participation in University activities has benefited Kansas State, who in turn, awarded us with several university

contracts. We are earnest in our belief that if you put back into the community that of which you take out, the rewards will be plentiful. This has been exemplified through our local community service work.

Service, food for the soul, and the source of all joy, is a cornerstone of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity. We are actively involved in community service such as our ongoing projects with University for Man and their H.O.M.E. project. The Sigma Doves, our little sister organization, are also very active with the Douglass Center and Manhattan's underprivileged youth. This year it is our intention to initiate student involvement in the Manhattan chapter of the NAACP.

The Delta chapter is also very proud of their commitment to scholarship. We strive to uphold good academics. Recently, Brother Vincent Key, senior in pre-med biology, was chosen as one of seven students nationally to receive the Doctor Elaine Leroy Locke Scholarship for Academic Excellence. He was awarded \$500 for his educational pursuits. Brother Randall Hopkins and Brother Vincent Key were also nominated by Kansas State University for a national scholarship award for their high academic standing.

Together, these things, Brotherhood, Scholarship, and Service, constitute what the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma represent and believe in. The Delta Chapter and the Blue & White family would like to wish all new students the best of luck in their pursuits and extend an open invitation to anyone with an interest or desire to learn more about our organization.

by Mark Mahan

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

The Brothers of the illustrious Kappa Tau chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity are pleased to extend their warmest greetings to the new and returning K-State students.

In our quest for leadership, love for all mankind and progress through hard work and tenacity, we are looking forward to a progressive and exhaustive 1987-88 school year.

The 1986-87 school year was a successful one for us, which included duly initiating brother Dean Pearson into our fraternal order.

Our annual "Martin Luther King Candle Light March and Vigil" was our most successful event of the year. We were pleased to have been able to include Dr. Hakim Salahu-Din, K-State President Jon Wefald, Nelson Nickerson, and our fraternity brother Curtis Bazemore as special guest speakers during the candlelight ceremony.

Our Second Annual Black Greek Quadrathlon was an opportunity for the black greeks and independent students to compete in various sporting events, while also having fun.

The first place trophy was presented to the men of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, second place honors were awarded to the men of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, while we, the men of Alpha Phi Alpha finished in a third place victory.

Hopefully, next year we'll do a lot better.

With K-State being the host of the 11th Annual Big 8 Conference on Black Student Government in February, we are in the process of coordinating and planning for this upcoming affair.

We would like to encourage all black students, greeks and non-greeks to do their utmost to help us as well as the Black Student Union, preparing for the conference.

Furthermore, we wish everyone the best of luck in their studies for the upcoming school year.

Members of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Kappa Tau chapter includes Brother Scott Roberts, Brother Jimmy Jackson, Brother Arnie Bazemore, and Brother Dean Pearson.

by Scott Roberts

UBV BEGINS WITH A BOOM

by Skip Grizzell

Energy, excitement, and enthusiasm correctly describe the tone of a United Black Voices choir rehearsal. Between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm on Wednesday evenings, K-State's Little Theatre is transformed into a grand concert hall ringing with over thirty ethnic voices uniting to make a harmonic, joyful noise to the Lord, in song.

United Black Voices Gospel Choir began in 1968 offering a spiritual, social and cultural outlet for KSU's ethnic population. The choir has picked up enthusiasm as the years have progressed and seems to be at the point of explosion this year.

UBV participates in school-related functions as well as activities outside of the immediate Kansas State community. These off-campus opportunities allow choir members to directly experience cultural and religious variation. Off-campus engagements also permit the choir to minister the gospel through song in places and to people who may otherwise never experience black

gospel music.

Because United Black Voices is a "young choir" a new perspective is available for the audience who has not been properly exposed to black gospel. Gospel is typically thought of as being reserved for the older adults or aged, inner-city church-goers. But at K-State, we have an opposition to that stereotype: we are a gospel choir composed of young people who, at one level or another, have had an experience with God and know how to powerfully communicate that experience through progressive gospel.

Greta Spears, senior in mass communications from Kansas City, MO, is one of the directors of UBV. This is her second year working in this capacity. When asked what are the most important characteristics of choir memberships she stressed commitment and effort. "Yes, we're after numbers but we must have committed and faithful people. Consistency, commitment, and maintaining faith in what you do are all vital to the success of a group."

See UBV page 4



Members of Phi Beta Sigma offer free manpower to University for Man organization.

WIGFALL

Continued from page 1

dent person, you have to be willing to be aggressive and willing to say 'stop, that's not right' very diplomatically and professionally."

Wigfall's intermediate goals will be to give students a solid base for continuation of their studies and to use her previous teaching experience to contribute to the faculty. Wigfall says another goal is to serve as a role model for minority students on campus.

"I have lots of experience with minority students and perhaps I can be of assistance at KSU."

Meet The Editors

It's going to be a great semester for Alliance and that's a promise from your Alliance editors. Allow us to introduce ourselves:

My name is Barbara Baker and I'm looking forward to working with Alliance this semester. I am a senior in radio and television with extensive training in news and commercial writing and production. One of my personal interests is to see a women's studies program developed for black women and all ethnic women and their concerns. My goals for Alliance are to bring the accomplishments and concerns of black women out and to continue to make Alliance a publication that meets the diverse needs of the K-State campus and Manhattan community.

My name is Bobby Van Buren and I am not only happy to be working on the Alliance this year but I am also looking forward to bringing forth some of the views, comments, and concerns that the minority students are facing on our campus today. I have had previous experience in journalism, copy writing and advertising, and an extensive background in the field of Graphic Design

UBV

Continued from page 3

Spears will pursue an internship with a major communications network in or around Kansas City, MO, next semester, acquiring additional hands-on experience. Her ultimate goal is to be a newscaster for Cable News Network (CNN).

If you are interested in becoming involved with United Black Voices Gospel Choir or would like more information regarding choir activities, please contact Greta Spears at 539-2787.

Illustration. Because of my participation in a variety of campus groups and community service, it allows me to collectively bring together the services and activities available to KSU minority students and members of the Manhattan community.

My name is Skip Grizzell and like Barbara and Bobby, I am very excited about working with Alliance this year. I am majoring in English Literature and carrying a minor in Ethnic Studies. My professional experience is varied, ranging from radio broadcast to corporate law. With such a diverse background, I bring a broad perspective to Alliance. It is my desire to see the seemingly widening gap between K-State's ethnic population and the remaining student majority bridged by way of this publication. I believe that as the various cultures are made aware of each group's special qualities and unique characteristics, our campus will be more complete; providing not only an excellent academic education but a positive, cultural experience.

Upward Bound

Staff members of KSU Upward Bound, a federally funded high school academic support program, are aware of the national statistics and they know that each year more than a million teenagers become pregnant, four out of every five unmarried and 30,000 under the age of fifteen. They know that drugs shatter millions of teenage lives every year. The high school dropout rates are no less alarming for teenagers, especially for minority youth. The Upward Bound summer residential program offered an opportunity for the staff to tackle these problems with 50 youth from Manhattan, Junction City, St. George, and Westmoreland. Thus, the idea of "Seminars on Teenage Social Issues" evolved.

Working as a team, Janette Hewitt, former Academic Services Coordinator, Reginland McGowan, Program Counselor/Student Services Coordinator, Charlotte Olsen, Director, and Juanita McGowan, volunteer consultant, tossed out the idea of lecturing to these students. As one student said, "Every program we go to, someone is preaching to us about the same old thing...sex, AIDS, drugs and alcohol." What became evident is that the students needed to start talking about more basic issues: how they felt about themselves, how they felt they were getting along in their environments, and how they made decisions.

Carl Boyd, a noted educator from Kansas City, Missouri, was invited to kick off the seminars. His topic, "Nobody Rises to Low Expectations", set the stage for students to start thinking about the pertinent issues in their lives. In small groups, they took his information to assemble "life skill" bags, naming important conditions that helped them cope with everyday situations.

The planning team and Upward Bound summer counselors, Mary Craddock, Becky Griebat, Danielle Hollas, Andrea Shelton, Randy Wewer, Arnie Bazemore, and Deanna Noel built upon this orientation by facilitating small group discussions on what's important in each student's life and what are his/her individual short-term and long-term goals. Exercises were designed to create interchange -

for example, each student designed a "self" poster to describe him/herself, and shared it with group members.

The final emphasis of the seminars was leading the students through a decision-making process and allowing each student to work through a personal decision using a series of sequential steps.

Interwoven throughout the entire summer were seminar supplements that gave the students information on issues that sometimes intrude into teenagers' personal lives. Sergeant Stanley Conkwright of the Riley County Police Department shared factual information on the incidence of alcohol and drug usage and the potential consequences from a law related viewpoint. He also focused on teenage suicide and its impact throughout the nation.

Students used this focus on teenage social issues to write research papers and to practice critical thinking skills in their academic classes. Consequently, it became a total approach to our summer program. What were the responses of students at the end of the program? They ranged from "It wasn't boring" to "I can be sure of myself and know what I want" to "It told me a lot on how I can be better in everyday life," to "I have a philosophy of life."

The Upward Bound staff sees these seminars as a spring board for ongoing programming during the academic year. As Reginland McGowan, who will be coordinating these ongoing personal development activities, sums it up: "Research has shown that to deal with adolescent problems effectively, the program must encompass the school, the student and the family." To survive over time, the program must also include "intensive teacher training," developing semester-long programs that offer detailed lesson plans and a full complement of curricular materials, including textbooks for students, a guide for parents, series of parent seminars, and intensive teaching/training, will be the primary emphasis in ongoing coordinating efforts of Upward Bound's Teenage Social Issues Seminars.

ESS Wants You

Educational Supportive Services is a retention and academic support service. All of our services are free if you are eligible for the program based on federal guidelines.

Some of the services provided are academic counseling, study skills, tutorial center, financial planning, help sessions and an individual educational plan for each person.

You can find out if you are eligible by completing a short

intake evaluation with an academic counselor.

Our staff consists of Anne Butler, Director; Kathy Greene, Acting Director; Laurie McCauley, Academic Counselor; Diana Caldwell, Minority Student Development Coordinator; Andrea Shelton, Graduate Assistant; Sam Branch, Data Analyst; Jonathan Walls, Peer Counselor.

Stop in and see us in Holton 205 for additional information.



Office of Minority Affairs
Holton Hall
Manhattan, Kansas 66506

Nonprofit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE
PAID

Permit No. 525
Manhattan, Kan. 66502

DAVID A ROWE
HHC/MMC DISCOM
FT RILEY, KS

66442



Upward Bound participants